



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 23 2018

July 23, 2018

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Eve C. Gartner, Senior Attorney; Earthjustice
Robert Stockman, Senior Attorney; Environmental Defense Fund
Daniel Rosenberg, Senior Attorney; Natural Resources Defense Council
Liz Hitchcock, Acting Director; Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families

Dr. Ms. Gartner, Mr. Stockman, Mr. Rosenberg, and Ms. Hitchcock,

Thank you for your letter on July 13, 2018 requesting a 45-day extension to the comment periods for the problem formulations and systematic review guidance. We appreciate your desire for a thorough review of these documents. We acknowledge these documents are technical in nature and require careful review, while the sheer volume of information requires significant time. We hope the organization of the documents allows for some efficiencies in your review process.

As you are aware the timelines required under TSCA are extremely aggressive and EPA is working diligently to meet these deadlines. The risk evaluation rule requires that each draft risk evaluation be peer reviewed, and our work to complete the draft risk evaluations, with the inclusion of public comment on the problem formulation is bumping up against the time required for this step. In light of these constraints, we will extend the comment period for the ten problem formulation documents and the systematic review guidance by 21 days. Although the comment period will end in 21 days, EPA will try to consider any additional comments received after this date. However, given the need to peer review the draft risk evaluations, the peer reviewers may not receive late submissions. There will be an additional comment period following the publication of each of the draft risk evaluations.

We appreciate your continued interest in our program.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Morris", is located below the "Best," salutation.

Jeff Morris
Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics